

**Comments from  
The National Association of Tower Erectors  
to  
The Federal Communications Commission  
regarding  
Docket No. 03-128**

**Nationwide Programmatic Agreement regarding the Section 106  
National Historic Preservation Act Review Process**

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**Introduction**

The National Association of Tower Erectors (NATE) is a non-profit organization serving as the unified voice of the tower erection, service and maintenance industry. NATE was formed in 1995 and has worked with numerous federal agencies, including the FCC, OSHA, NIOSH and USFWS on policy matters that affect the safety and/or operations of the tower erection industry nationwide. NATE is comprised of approximately 600 member companies.

**Comments Regarding Docket No. 03-128**

NATE has reviewed the Notice of Proposed rulemaking regarding Docket No. 03-128 and finds that the majority of our concerns are addressed in the comments previously provided by other industry related associations, including the Personal Communications Industry Association (PCIA), the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association (CTIA) and the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB). There are, however, two distinct issues that NATE feels warrant further consideration.

**Definition of Size**

Attachment Number 1 to Docket No. 03-128 – Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for the Collocation of Wireless Antennas, Stipulations, Subpart (1) “Definitions”, Subpart (C) “Substantial increase in the size of the tower”, Subpart (4) states:

“The mounting of the proposed antenna would involve excavation outside the current tower site, defined as the current boundaries of the leased or owned property surrounding the tower and any access or utility easements currently related to the site”.

In reference to the mounting of a proposed antenna involving excavation beyond the current tower site, NATE encourages the Commission to avoid restrictions that may be unrealistic in practical situations where the tower site boundaries were established at absolute minimums. Under these circumstances, efforts to discourage excavation beyond the established site may be counter productive to the Commission's policy of encouraging collocation where feasible.

**Recognizing the Limits of Collocation**

While the Commission's interest in collocation is recognized and its value in historic preservation understood, NATE emphasizes that providing our nation's citizens with effective, consistent and reliable access to wireless communication and information services will require the expansion of the existing network of telecommunication towers and related structures. The use of collocation to meet the wireless application needs and demands of the United States is limited in its application. The preference to utilize collocation under those limited circumstances must not diminish the priority of meeting the needs and demands of American citizens, which will require the erection, service and maintenance of new and existing telecommunication towers.

**Conclusion**

Your consideration of these comments is greatly appreciated. If further definition of these issues is required, please do not hesitate to contact NATE at the address listed below:

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